

AN APPENDIX

TO A

TREATISE

ON THE

HYDROCELE;

CONTAINING

ADDITIONAL PROOFS OF THE EFFICACY OF
INJECTION FOR THE CURE OF THAT DISEASE,

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APPENDIX.

SINCE the publication of my Treatise on the Hydrocele many other instances have occurred in which the means of cure by injection have been employed—conceiving it to be a duty incumbent on every one, who advances an opinion which interests the health and ease of mankind, to bring forward every information respecting it, which experience produces, until its appropriate value be completely ascertained, I have thought proper to print the following cases.—As they are merely intended to exemplify and strengthen the ar-

guments which I have before fully stated, I shall proceed to relate them without further preface or apology.

C A S E XXXI.

JUNE 26, 1791. A gentleman who had suffered much in his own person by the operation of incision for the cure of a Hydrocele, having been confined by it nearly six months, desired me to see his nephew, about nine years of age, who had a complaint of that kind. It was for so young a subject very large, the sac very thin and transparent. I was informed by his father that it had been emptied in the country, that it had filled again in a few days, and that in a fortnight it was as large as ever. This account was confirmed by the surgeon who performed the operation: the shortness of the time in which the water had
re-accu-

re-accumulated appeared extraordinary, and very different from the common Hydrocele, which usually is filled by small, and often by scarcely perceptible degrees. Not long before, I had seen a complaint in a boy of about the same age, in which there was some similarity of circumstances with the present case, and which an attempt had been made to cure by incision, but it filled again; after which it was simply let out by a trochar, and the water returned in a very short time. This was supposed to happen from a communication with the abdomen, by which opening moisture, collected within the peritoneal lining of the abdomen, was said to drop down into the tunica vaginalis testis, and thus again quickly to distend it. Though I had not an opportunity of being completely satisfied of the nature of that case, I thought probably this arose from a similar cause, whatever that might be; at least it

was evident that there were some peculiarities attending it, and therefore, though pressed to perform the operation of injection, I declined doing it at first, and advised the simple evacuation, to give me an opportunity of observing the manner of its refilling, and also of taking it at a more favourable period, when it should not be so much distended. Accordingly I let out a considerable quantity of a straw-coloured fluid, and found the testis in a good state. The next day some water was palpably collected, and in two days after, there was a considerable quantity—in less than a fortnight it was nearly as large as when I let it out. These circumstances being new, and as I had not performed it on so young a person, I thought proper to mention them to his friends, and not to give positive or even sanguine hopes of success. When the operation was resolved on, he caught the measles, which obliged us to defer it.

it. July 25, he was sufficiently recovered to undergo it; accordingly I let out the water, and introduced the injection of nearly the usual strength. He complained of some, but not violent pain, for a few minutes. In six minutes it was discharged; in the evening a small degree of inflammation had taken place on the part; the following day it was increased in size equal to what it was before it was emptied. The little patient had a perfectly good night, and had not felt any pain since the operation. As he was becoming rather heated, though, as I conceive, more from the irritability of constitution, which he derived from the measles, of which he was just recovered, than from the inflammation of the part, which was moderate and perfectly indolent, a clyster and some saline draughts were administered. In the evening he was cooler and perfectly easy, the part rather more swelled, but without pain or

apparent inflammation. The third day from the operation it continued to increase, and the whole scrotum was considerably tumefied, and seemed aggravated by the fever, which still continued. I could not but look on the fever as independent of the complaint, as there was no inflammation or pain attending which could cause it. The 4th day the fever was much better, and the swelling began to diminish, and so continued in a gradual state of subsidence. On the 7th it was evidently much diminished, and in a fortnight was reduced to little more than the previous distention of the tunic might be supposed to produce—he soon after got well enough to be sent to school. November 9th, his father assured me he continued well; I have seen him since, and he remains perfectly free from any vestige of a Hydrocele.

C A S E XXXII.

AUGUST 4, 1791, I injected the Hydrocele of a young man of the family of his Grace the Duke of B. which I had once previously evacuated, and had suffered to gain a moderate size. He felt some pain during about half an hour, in the afternoon—in the evening was perfectly easy; a slight inflammation had seized the part, which was increased the next morning, attended with some swelling, but no pain. It went on as usual, and though the man took improper liberties in using great exercise, particularly by running up and down stairs very early after the operation, no accident occurred, and he got perfectly well.

C A S E XXXIII.

OCTOBER 28, 1791, I was desired to see a gentleman in Artillery-Place, who had a very large Hydrocele, of the cause of which he gave the following account: that he was asleep in his bed-room up two pair of stairs, when he was alarmed with his house being on fire; he ran to the window and opened it, at the instant a large quantity of spirit of turpentine below stairs took fire, and made a violent explosion; excessively terrified, and scarcely awake, he threw himself out of the window, and fell into the road. Though bruised and injured in the greatest degree in many parts of his body, limbs, and face, he miraculously recovered. Soon after he was able to move about, he perceived a swelling in the scrotum, which increased to a great degree, and formed a Hydrocele. This, at different periods, he had suffered to be evacuated

cuated six times. Tired of the continuance
 of so great an inconvenience, he wished to
 have a radical cure performed, and disapprov-
 ing of the usual methods, he preferred the
 mode by injection. It had now been col-
 lecting nine months, and was so large that I
 doubted of the success, but as I had succeeded
 in one of greater magnitude, and he was de-
 sirous to try it, I was induced to make the
 attempt. He was of a fallow unhealthy com-
 plexion, having never perfectly recovered of
 his internal bruises; and I was informed that he
 was of a very irritable habit, and had always
 felt great pain after the simple evacuation. I
 therefore prepared the injection much more
 diluted than usual. I let out above three half
 pints of a greenish fluid, and returned a large
 quantity of injection. He now complained
 of considerable pain leading up toward the kid-
 ney on the same side, but he said little more
 than he had been accustomed to feel from
 simple

simple evacuation. After detaining the injection the usual time he was put to bed; as he still continued to feel pain; an opiate was given. However, as I afterwards learned, he grew sick, as was his custom after the simple evacuation, and brought up the opiate, so that its effect was lost, and as it was not repeated, his pain continued. In about three hours it left him; he passed a good afternoon and an easy night; the next day I found him with the scrotum considerably enlarged and tumefied, but perfectly easy.—The following day it was more enlarged, being more than half the size before the water was evacuated. On the 4th day, as I had left him so well the day before, I missed seeing him; but on the 5th, I found that he had been seized with sickness, a complaint to which he was very subject, and had vomited incessantly for two hours, notwithstanding every assistance from his very intelligent apothecary. He was languid, the
part

part was considerably more swelled, and he felt a pain in the chord leading toward the kidney and bladder. It was however, on the whole, much better than could have been expected from such violent efforts of straining. A stool was procured by a clyster, and the next day he was better, the tumor nearly the same. November 10, he still complained of pain in the chord, which was harder, and had partaken more of the inflammation than usual, owing to the violence of vomiting, and the whole tumour continued very large. 11th, The gentleman informed me that it was certainly diminishing. On enquiring why he spoke so positively, he informed me that when it was at the largest he had measured it by a rule, when it was in length seven inches and a half by sixteen inches in circumference, that now it was six inches and a half in length; and afterwards it continued to lessen daily near half an inch in length, and something more

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in diameter. Thus by line and rule we were satisfied that the size of the tumour arose from inflammation only, and not from accumulating fluid. 16th November, it was lessened to four inches and a half by ten; in about a week after it subsided to less than three inches; soon after he got perfectly well, and has continued ever since free from any fresh collection. This is an instance of the impropriety of performing the operation on a Hydrocele when so much distended. I was induced to do it by the desire of the patient, but it is better to take an opportunity when it is smaller, as the quantity of inflammation, and the continuance of it, is generally in proportion to the size.

C A S E XXXIV,

OCTOBER 30, 1791, A gentleman from a distant county shewed me a Hydrocele, with
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an intention of submitting to a radical cure; but as it was remarkably large, and had not before been evacuated, I persuaded him to have it simply let out, and to wait till it should fill again to a more moderate size. At the instant when the trochar was passed in, he jerked back with such velocity as to pull it out again, by which means only a part of the water was drawn off, so that there was not sufficient to admit of any other operation, nor was it totally emptied. Nothing remarkable appeared in the fluid which came away, and it was determined that the radical cure should be performed when more should be collected. He went into the country, and returned February 11, 1792. The tumor was not quite so large as before, and in every respect a good subject for the operation which it was agreed to perform. As he appeared to be of a disposition timorous and easily susceptible of alarm, and as he had given me the slip on the former occasion,

occasion,

occasion, with a view to effectually secure him, he was laid on a bed. The trochar was then fairly passed in, the water all drawn off, and thus the most difficult part of the operation being over, no doubt was entertained of the completion of it. Accordingly I began to throw in the injection; the first syringe full was nearly thrown in, when he said he felt a pain, and being greatly alarmed, he contrived to draw himself backward with velocity on the bed. When he was quiet I attempted to throw in more, but soon perceived that what passed from the syringe did not fill the sac; it was now evident that in the effort which he had made he had forced the canula out of the sac, and it was in vain to endeavour to throw in more. This was an embarrassing circumstance, however the only thing which remained to be done, was to get it out again both from the sac and also what was diffused in the cellular membrane of the scrotum,

scrotum, lest by remaining it should do mischief by raising an inflammation, as was mentioned to have happened in Case No. XXI. Accordingly I pressed it out of the sac, and it formed a small swelling at the lower part of the scrotum; this I opened with the point of a lancet, and emptied as accurately as I was able, by taking great pains, and repeated pressure, which was necessary, as it was not in one cavity, but diffused through the cells: this was continued till it became nearly of the size of the other testis. I then left it, much doubting if sufficient had been thrown into the sac to complete the cure. In the evening he complained of a good deal of pain in his back. In a few days the scrotum became moderately tumefied, and the testis appeared enlarged—a sign that some injection had entered. The inflammation continued moderate, both in the testis and scrotum; he got up the third day, and was free from

pain, but the part was very tender on being touched; the testis gradually subsided, but a slough took place in the lower part of the dartos, where the injection had been, which by degrees came away; and what appeared to be part of the tunica vaginalis, followed by the same wound, which soon after contracted and healed, and he got perfectly well.—I have thought proper to mention this case fully, that, should such accident again occur, we may be aware of it, and endeavour to avoid the effect of it, by getting out as much of the injection as possible; if it had been suffered to remain, the inflammation and sloughs would have been much more extensive and mischievous. With the attention I paid to avoid such effects, the cure was completed with little more inconvenience than would have happened from the application of Mr. Else's caustic. But I have since thought I might still have succeeded better if I had thrown in

warm

warm water to have diluted what necessarily remained behind, and then have endeavoured to have again pressed out the dregs.

C A S E XXXV.

NOVEMBER 9, 1791, A French gentleman, driven from his country at the age of sixty-three, shewed me a Hydrocele of moderate size, which he said had been collecting about two months since it had been last evacuated; being desirous of obtaining a radical cure, I let it out and filled it with injection. He complained of little pain, which went off before it was discharged. I saw him in the evening, he said his pain had continued about an hour, but that he was then perfectly easy. The testis was beginning to swell a little; this continued to increase so gently, that he got up the second day, and was not conscious of any thing but a sense of weight in the part.

This continued to the seventh day without appearance of diminution. He was then attacked with a fit of the gout, for which he increased his quantity of wine; this, with an obstinate costiveness which ensued, brought on a pain in the part for two or three days. By paying attention to his general health this went off, and the swelling began visibly to diminish. By the end of the month he got perfectly well.

C A S E XXXVI.

DECEMBER 17, 1791, I evacuated the Hydrocele of a young man at the hospital: the testis was larger than natural; but as no material disease appeared to affect it, I filled it with injection. He suffered little or no pain, but walked by choice down stairs and up another pair to his own ward. The third day the inflammation was gentle and moderate; the
seventh

seventh it continued swelled without pain. In about a fortnight this man was entirely well.

CASE XXXVII.

FEBRUARY 10, 1792, I assisted a gentleman in injecting the Hydrocele of a middle aged man. The observation I made at the time was, that the cannula of the trochar was pressed with too great violence against the testis both before the evacuation and afterwards, from which I apprehended more inflammation than usual. This accordingly happened, but was of little consequence, as it soon subsided by the ordinary means, and I only cursorily mention it by way of caution. The 26th I saw him; the testis was nearly of its natural size, and there was not the smallest appearance of a return of water.

C A S E XXXVIII.

MARCH 4, 1792, I performed the cure by injection on the Hydrocele of Col. ———, which I had previously evacuated several times. There always remained a considerable tumour or swelling after it was emptied, owing to the great thickness of the sac, and a fullness about the chord, chiefly owing to obesity; but as the testis appeared to be in a good state, I did not hesitate to use the injection. He complained of considerable pain and sickness, which lasted about two minutes, but got better before it was evacuated. Soon after he went to bed he felt a good deal of pain in the neighbourhood of the kidneys, which he said was like what he had felt in fits of the gravel. I saw him in the evening; he was perfectly easy, and passed a good night. Next morning the testis was gently tumefied, which increased

creased by next day. The third day he said he had felt more of the gravelly pain, and had voided some gravel, and was after that perfectly easy. The testis was swelled, but scarcely tender to the touch. This case proceeded remarkably well. The Colonel's active disposition gave him little quarter. The fourth day I found him in his study amusing himself with books and the conversation of his friends. The sixth day from the operation the testis began to subside. On the ninth he went out in his carriage; and in a few days the testis was nearly subsided; and though he paid little more attention to it, but walked and took his usual exercise, and lived in his usual manner, the complaint gave him no trouble afterwards, nor has there ever been the smallest return of water,

C A S E XXXIX.

The following Case differed from the generality of those I have described, and had many peculiarities in its nature, progress, and cure.

I was desired to perform the radical operation on the Hydrocele of a gentleman from Scotland. The tumour certainly had the appearance of a Hydrocele, but on examining it, felt heavy, and had not the feel of water alone, but as if an enlarged testis made part of the disease. I mentioned my suspicions, and said the evacuation of the water only could determine the propriety of attempting the radical cure. I let out about three ounces of straw-coloured fluid from the lower part of the tumour, but found I had not evacuated the whole swelling. On examining I found another Hydrocele of the chord, perfectly separate and independent of the other, and the testis itself much indurated and enlarged. I
let

let out about two ounces from the superior Hydrocele; but on account of the diseased state of the testis, advised no further operation. In consultation with a physician, he was put under a course of cicula and mercurial frictions. The testis in one week became less, and the water did not appear to return. However, after several weeks had elapsed, the water began again to collect in small quantity in the lower tumour, and the upper became as large as ever; it was now determined that he should leave off the mercury and cicula, and from an idea that it might arise from a scrophulous disposition, he was advised to try the effect of sea bathing. As the superior tumour began to be inconvenient from the size, I let it out the day before he intended to go. No inflammation having followed the former puncture I expected none from this, therefore saw no more of him; but was surprised to receive a letter from Brighton, informing me that he had felt some pain in the part during
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the night after the puncture, and that it was inflamed in the morning, notwithstanding which he sat off and travelled the whole way—when arrived the part was greatly swollen and painful, and, in short, he was confined to his bed; the inflammation increased, and an abscess formed, which was opened. As soon as he was able he returned to London. I found the superior Hydrocele divided through its whole extent; this soon granulated and healed. The collection which was again beginning below, and also a disposition to a Hydrocele in the other testis, disappeared.

C A S E XL.

MARCH 10, 1792, I evacuated the water from the Hydrocele of a middle aged man at the hospital, which had not before been emptied. He complained of some pain during the evacuation, apparently more from apprehension than reality, as he said he felt but little more when the injection was introduced.

introduced. After the proper time it was discharged, when being relieved from his fears, he became easy. The next day he said he had felt pain for about an hour in the afternoon, but since had continued easy. The part appeared gently tumefied; it grew larger for four or five days; by the seventh it was so much lessened, that the man had liberty to walk about as usual, and was discharged in a fortnight.

C A S E XLI.

MARCH 13, 1792, Another unfortunate French gentleman, forced to abandon his native country, shewed me a Hydrocele of uncommon size; he said it had been before let out, but had been now three years collecting; it was larger considerably than his head, yet he contrived to keep it out of sight by a bandage that drew it backward. It was much too large to admit of any thing but the simple evacuation, which accordingly I did with a large
trochar,

trochar, and let out more than six full pints of water tinged with blood, which he attributed to a bruise which he had received in it lately. The testis was in a good state, the chord enlarged and sufficiently elongated to admit of the testis lying at the bottom of the swelling. Notwithstanding the immensity of the tumour before evacuation, the scrotum almost immediately contracted to a small size. I wished to have observed the further progress of this extraordinary case, but have since had no opportunity of seeing it.

C A S E XLII.

The Rev. Mr. ——— had a large Hydrocele, which I had emptied in June 1791. As he was desirous now to get rid of it entirely, I was induced to use the injection, though it was larger than I should have preferred, and by pressure it was apparently divided into two
tumours,

tumours, but the communication was evident, and they both were emptied by a puncture in the lower part. I threw in the injection, and he complained of a good deal of pain for a couple of minutes, but was easy before it was let out. He passed a good night and got up the next day; the third day the part was tumefied, but so easy that he dressed himself and came down into the coffee room where he lodged. The following day he chose to take a long walk, and continued to follow his amusements as usual, only complaining of a little tenderness of the part on being handled. Notwithstanding the little care he took of himself no material interruption to the progress of the cure took place; in less than three weeks he returned into the country well.

C A S E XLIII.

SECOND CASE OF ENCYSTED HYDROCELE OF
THE TUNICA VAGINALIS TESTIS.

JULY 1, 1792, A gentleman applied to me with a Hydrocele which had once before been emptied. It was pretty large, but what made it remarkable was, that the testis could be felt distinctly under the tumour, so that the water appeared to be collected in the chord, but yet the swelling could not be distinctly separated from the upper part of the testis. It was sufficiently evident that the cavity of the tunica vaginalis testis was not the seat of the complaint. He wished the injection to be used. I thought proper to inform him that this was not a common case; but as I had succeeded in one where the water was collected in the chord, I had hopes of being equally successful in the present; and as the

coats of the testis were not affected, I imagined the sensation which the injection would produce would be in a very small degree. I let out about five ounces of water ; when the injection was introduced, he complained, as I expected, of very little pain ; he went to bed to meet any pain which might arise, but he continued easy all the afternoon ; the next morning I found him up and dressed. The part was attended with some swelling, which continued increasing to the sixth day, when he complained of some uneasiness, and was glad to keep his bed for a few days, which, with the assistance of a saturnine application, soon reduced it. After which it gradually subsided as a common hydrocele, and in less than three weeks he went out of town. The chord rather larger than the other, but without the least appearance of a fresh collection of water.

I hope

C A S E XLIV.

I hope Mr. Dunning will excuse the liberty I take in giving the following obliging letter in his own words.

S I R,

I take liberty to communicate the following cure of Hydrocele, because it is the first case, I believe, in this neighbourhood in which the injection has been used. This circumstance is not enough perhaps to justify me in giving you this trouble; I will not therefore add to the interruption by making any longer apology, but will just observe, that as I write from a principle of respect, I shall be extremely sorry to offend.

A gentleman of great respectability, about two months since, consulted me for a Hydrocele. He had noted the first approaches of it about a year ago, and could not refer it to
any

any cause within his knowledge. As the case was fairly marked, and he was a temperate middle aged man, of good constitution, I immediately proposed the radical cure by a small caustic as recommended by Mr. Else, a practice I had hitherto adopted, and always with very complete success. My patient now put into my hands your valuable Treatise, said it had made a wonderful impression on his mind, that he was very unwilling to submit to any other method of cure than that by injection, and earnestly requested me to read the Essay. I never read any thing with more satisfaction, for, partial as I was to the caustic, all my prepossessions in its favour immediately gave way to the superior advantages of care and expedition, which so remarkably characterize your management of the complaint. Accordingly on the 10th of December ult. having drawn off by the trochar seventeen ounces of a bright citron coloured fluid, I injected about eight or

ten ounces of wine and water in the proportion of two parts of the former to one of the latter. The gentleman spoke of considerable pain on the introduction, and indeed during the retention of it, which was precisely five minutes; the pain, however, soon left him. The accession of inflammation was announced the next day by a slight thickening of the parts only; indeed it was so moderate, and the whole process had been so gentle, my patient, apprehensive that a sufficient degree of excitement had not been produced, did absolutely on the second day exercise himself about the room, with a view to increase the irritation, and it was from this conduct, I believe, that he complained the following day of some pain along the course of the spermatic process, which, however, soon went off. About the fifth day the tumefaction had attained its height; the scrotum was now about the size of a middling man's fist, attended with rather
a sense

a sense of fulness than of any pain; it continued in this state two or three days, and then going off gradually in the clearest way imaginable. At the end of a fortnight from the commencement of the cure, my patient had to congratulate himself on the riddance of a disease, which had long given him the greatest anxiety. When I reflect on the ease and simplicity of the operation, which really is not more formidable than that of common blood-letting, and oppose to it the many painful and operose modes of cure hitherto, and indeed at this time too often employed, the cure by injection appears in a most striking point of view, must be ranked among the greatest improvements of modern surgery, and commands the gratitude of mankind. I have too long trespassed on your attention, shall therefore beg leave to subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.

Plymouth Dock,
Dec. 8, 1792.

RICHARD DUNNING.

P. S. I got a trochar made longer than is usually employed, with three lateral apertures about an inch from its extremity; by this contrivance I evacuated the whole of the injection without running any risk of the trochar's slipping from the scrotum.

C A S E XLV.

NOVEMBER 10, 1792, A person applied with a very large swelling, which appeared so hard and heavy, that there was every reason to suspect that the testis bore the greater share; however there was evidently some fluid, which it was agreed to evacuate. On passing in a trochar a larger quantity of fluid came away than was expected. The tunica was remarkably thick, which had made the feel of the fluid obscure; and the testis was very large, but as no pain nor any bad circumstances attended, it was determined to proceed no further,

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ther, but to endeavour to soften and lessen it by medicine, which was the more likely to be effected now that the pressure of the water was removed. No means that were used had any apparent effect, as the water soon began to reaccumulate, and in six weeks there was as large a quantity of fluid as before. On being now more certain of the nature of it, I again let it out, and as the testis, though enlarged, was still without pain, I was tempted to endeavour to cure the Hydrocele. It was certainly a very unfavourable case, and not unlikely to bring discredit on the injection, as I could scarcely have room to hope that the very thick tunica and enlarged testis would unite. I threw in injection; he complained of more pain than usual; when it was evacuated he was easier, but still in pain. He went to bed and was ordered an opiate, but by the mistake of the nurse it was not given, so that his pain, not being at all checked, continued longer than necessary;

necessary ; however he was perfectly easy in the evening, and passed a good night. The next morning the testis was swelled more than usual, probably owing to the greater length of time the pain had been suffered to remain, and to the diseased state of the parts ; the inflammation and swelling also remained longer than usual, and there was reason to suspect that the water was again collecting : however after nine days the swelling began to diminish.

When it was considerably subsided, and no water was felt, the testis continued so large and hard, and the patient complained that it would be so exceedingly inconvenient to him in his business, that it was in consultation agreed to be removed. On passing in a trochar to ascertain the fact of the water being gone, about one ounce of deep straw-coloured fluid came away ; as this diminished the size of the testis, which, though enlarged, did not now
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feel schirrous or dangerously diseased, I was again induced to try if any means could further reduce it ; accordingly I ordered what I have repeatedly known of great service in these cases ; small quantities of mercurial ointment to be rubbed into the thigh : by continuing this process a sufficient length of time, the testis subsided, and became so small as to take away every reason for the removal of it, and there was not the smallest return of water ; thus both the Hydrocele and Sarcocoele being cured, he took leave of me, happy and well.

As this was the most unfavourable case I ever trusted the injection in, I shall close my account with it, though there have been many more cases under my own care, and more have come within my knowledge, which have succeeded ; but I do not think it necessary to trouble the reader with any further relation of them.

Such has been the success which has followed this mode of practice; and though there are who still prefer the painful operation of dividing the scrotum and laying bare the testis, or the tedious, loathsome cure by caustic, I have the pleasure to know that many practitioners have followed the plan recommended in my treatise on this subject, and have succeeded to their complete satisfaction. And hereafter, when contemporary prejudices are laid aside, and old habits, though strongly woven, are worn out; when all the different methods of curing the Hydrocele are fairly scanned and weighed in an impartial balance, I have the gratification to think that the pains which I have taken to introduce a mild and easy method will not be in vain, but will be the means of saving the rising generation from abundance of pain and misery.

THE END.



